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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 786
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EU Presidency Statement on the closure of Democratic Society Party (DTP) in Turkey

The European Union (EU) would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the EU Presidency Statement, issued on 11 December 2009, which reads as follows:

Presidency Statement on the closure of Democratic Society Party (DTP) in Turkey

The Presidency of the European Union expresses its concern in relation to the decision by the Constitutional Court to close the Democratic Society Party (DTP) and ban a number of its democratically elected representatives from political activity. While strongly denouncing violence and terrorism, the Presidency recalls that the dissolution of political parties is an exceptional measure that should be used with utmost restraint.

The EU has called on Turkey, as a negotiating country, to make the necessary constitutional amendments to bring its legislation on political parties in line with the recommendations by the Venice

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Commission of the Council of Europe and relevant provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Presidency will continue to closely monitor further developments.